the RARS Exciter

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

RARS

Worldwide Friendship

May, 2002

Number 375

## HAMFEST WINNER

Congratulations to Mike Milan KE4OQO
Winner of the hamfest worker *$100 Award*

## THANKS FOR ANOTHER GREAT RARSFEST

**By Hank Montgomery K4HM, RARSfest Chairman**

RARSfest 2002 has come and gone and although final numbers are not complete it appeared that everyone enjoyed the 30th annual event. As I write this note it has been over 2 weeks since RARSfest and I have not had a single patron contact me to complain about any aspect of the hamfest. The first thing I want to do is thank everyone who worked to support the effort. Everyone from the committee heads who worked for months before the hamfest, down to those who manned a post for a two-hour shift on the day of the fest - all of you should stand up and take a bow –

you all did a G R E A T J O B !

I stopped to talk to each commercial dealer at least once during the fest and not one of them had a single complaint. Let's thank Chuck for managing the commercial exhibits.

Jeff took on one of the really big jobs – pre- registration and flea market. This is one of the toughest jobs, starting months before the hamfest and building up to enough work to qualify as a second job by the last couple of weeks before the Fest. Jeff pulled it off like a pro –great job.

A big thanks also goes to Bernard for getting everything and everyone in place before the hamfest started. Somehow he seems to know what everyone in the Dealer/Vendor area needs before they even get there – and when someone

unexpected shows up he always finds a place for them. He also does double duty at the Red Cross station once the show starts.

And how about Mary Jo Littlewood – she put on another fine feed for everyone on Saturday night. This is one of the biggest hits of the hamfest. I hear more compliments about the Saturday Social than any other facet of the fest. The dealers really appreciate it and RARS members get to enjoy some close fellowship also. (My son Mike was also very glad he came to the dinner this year.)

Security and Admissions both had new chiefs this year and both had to struggle to find enough staff to cover requirements. Tim and Vince both came through and are to be congratulated – thanks guys. Lets all pitch in and help these two large resource requirements next year.

The VE team led by Charlie turned up another fine new crop of ham radio licensees. Maybe they will be available to help with RARSfest 2003.

The RARS table was available again this year providing a consignment sale service for our membership. I even found my largest purchase at the table. Let's give a big round of applause to Bob for managing this valuable service to our members.

## The Exciter

The ***Exciter*** is the monthly newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It is available in both printed and electronic form. The printed version is mailed to members just before each club meeting. The electronic form, in Adobe Acrobat PDF format, is e-mailed about a week earlier.

We solicit both articles and advertising. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the prior month. Contact the Editor.

The views contained in the Exciter are those of the individual authors, and are not necessarily the views of the Editor, or the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society.

## The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, we incorporated a new RARS, and obtained 501(c)(3) Non-Profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through Amateur Radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining Amateur Radio licenses.

Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are $18.00 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay $5.00 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are $12.00 per year. Dues for non-licensed Associate members are $9.00 per year.

Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer, or the RARS web site (www.rars.org).

## Officers

| | |
|---|---|
| **President** | **Bernard Blackmon W4BRB**<br>**467-8719**<br>kf4rtx@arrl.net |
| **Vice-President** | **Bob Breyer K1RCB**<br>**848-7761**<br>breyer@ix.netcom.com |
| **Secretary** | **Jim Walter KG4FIJ**<br>**468-5358**<br>jwalter@nc.rr.com |
| **Treasurer** | **Greg Seamster KE4PAX**<br>**859-0029**<br>ke4pax@arrl.net |
| **Exciter Editor** | **Denyse Walter KG4CXR**<br>**468-5358**<br>kg4cxr@nc.rr.com |

SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

## Info

**Repeaters:**

145.13
**146.64**
224.64
444.525 (88.5 PL)

**Web Site:**
http://www.rars.org

And thanks to Cyndi who was back this year complete with pink roller-blades working the information table, and to Gary who managed the stage. Both jobs were well done - thanks to both of you.

Bruce kept the traffic headed in the right direction from the Talk-In booth. Bruce had all information available to his operators including pre-written instructions from every conceivable direction into the fest. I didn't hear anyone say they got lost trying to get there. Thanks Bruce.

And when everyone else was gone – disappeared, eating and relaxing – the Dumpster Divers took over. Dave and his crew get the dubious job of literally cleaning up after us. If you aren't thankful to them – you didn't work hard enough to get tired enough !!! Thanks Dave.

And thanks to Greg who as co-chair took some of the load off of me this year. Anyone who won a major prize should especially thank him – he arranged to get the prizes.

Greg and I wish we could personally thank every one of you who helped to make this year's fest another successful one. If you, the members, did not pitch in to help out we could not possibly put on a show like RARSfest. Greg will have a big thank you for someone at the May 7th RARS meeting where he will present the worker incentive prize to the lucky worker whose name is drawn from the hat.

Without "preaching to the choir" I would like to find a way to increase participation from the membership. If you have any ideas on how to get more members interested in RARSfest, if you would like to become more involved yourself, or if you have any suggestions at all – drop me an email at K4HM@arrl.net or give me a phone call at 577-1254.

I hope this year "turned the corner" for RARSfest - attendance increased slightly, reversing the trend seen by most hamfests in recent years.Let's all spread the good news that RARSfest is growing again. Word of mouth advertising is the very best way to assure another good crowd next year.

Again – thanks to everyone for a great RARSfest 2002.

Hank – K4HM

# THANKS TO ALL!!!

I want to thank each person who contributed in one or more ways to the success of the RARS Hamfest Social held on the evening of April 13. Dealer, vendors, and club members who attended seemed really appreciative of the opportunity to enjoy a good meal as well as time to chat and socialize with others. RARS could not have had the event without the volunteer effort of so many folks…those who set up tables and chairs, those who decorated, those who contributed items of food, those who served the meal, and those who did clean up duties. A very special thanks is due Larry Carringer, a RARS member who presented musical entertainment during the meal, adding much to the enjoyment of the evening.

Many, many thanks to everyone who gave of their time to make the Social a good way of beginning the 30th RARS "Hamfestivities".

Mary Jo Littlewood
XYL…..K4HF

*Instructor Jeff Wittich AC4ZO welcomes students to the first class session*

## RARS Winter Class - 14 New Hams!

by Gary Pearce KN4AQ

The winter RARS Tech License Class produced 14 new hams - a 100% pass rate for the 14 who took the test. Congratulations and welcome to these new hams:

**Doug Bowler KG4SWB**
**Maury Cupitt AG4QZ**
**Jay Frantz KG4SWD**
**Daniel Hartmann KG4SWE**
**Anne Hefron KG4SWF**
**Randy Labaza KG4SWK**
**Denis Levy KG4SWG**
**Greg Maness KG4SWH**
**John Miles KG4SWI**
**Katherine Moreschi KG4SWJ**
**Norman Ryan KG4SWM**
**Clarke Swindell KG4SWN**
**Rick Tierney KG4SWL**
**John Uftring KG4SWO**

That's not a typo next to Maury Cupitt's name. His callsign is really AG4QZ! He passed the Tech test and got KG4SOD about halfway though the class. He quickly went on to pass his General and Extra. Several more class members have announced their intention to upgrade soon. As you can tell from the 100% class rate, this is a very motivated group of people!

Also auditing the class was Selene Montgomery KG4RMT, wife of Hank K4HM. Selene got her license before the class started, and although she was already licensed and has been "aware" of ham radio for years, she wanted the extra background available in the class. We're glad to have

## NET REPORTS FOR APRIL 2002

8:00PM DAILY: RARS EVENING NET
9:00PM MON: SWL SIG
8:30PM SAT: TECH & TRADERS

Total Net Activity:
591 CHECKINS
TRAFFIC: 40 Listed, 35 Passed

any club member sit in on the RARS classes. (Selene said she didn't think she'd spend much time on the air. Turns out that she feels very comfortable with the mic and has been yakking up a storm on several area repeaters! We've created another monster!)

Our 15th student, Camille Durfee, will be taking a test soon in a special VE session to accommodate her needs. Camille, with the help and encouragement of Israel N4ZVU, has been participating in RARS for several years. Camille has CP, and very little control of her muscles. Getting a ham license is a challenge for her - one we're sure she will meet.

Instructors this session were Jeff Wittich AC4ZO, Mike Murphy WA4BPJ, and me. The instructors won praise from the students for their enthusiasm and passion, which kept the interest level high.

The next class? We're not sure. Maybe a summer class starting in early July, but the instructors need to recover, first. These guys put us through the wringer!

**Join Us At The RARS Dinner**

*Every 4th Tuesday, 6:30 pm at Fat Daddy's on Glenwood Ave.*

## Minutes of the RARS March Board Meeting

March 19, 2002

The monthly Board meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was held at the Forest Hills Baptist Church on March 19. President Bernard Blackmon W4BRB called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM. Members present were: W4BRB, KN4AQ, KG4CXR, KE4PAX, AC4ZO, K4HM, K4HF, AB4OZ, KF4UQZ, KA2FWC, NI4S, and KG4FIJ. The total attendance was 12.

On motion by K4HM, seconded by KN4AQ, the minutes of the February 2002 meeting were approved.

KE4PAX reports we now have a total of 303 members.

**Committee Reports:**

VP Report - KN4AQ (on behalf of K1RCB) reported that April membership meeting would include a program by an ex-CIA employee. Also, Bob K1RCB has GPS units available for an attractive price.

FM Committee - KA2FWC reported that he would contact Danny Hampton for a status report on repeater project. W4BRB informed of a late notice of payment received from the tower company. Will request another invoice and resolve the situation.

Exciter - W4BRB reported that due to personal reasons, K4LNX has resigned as Exciter editor. President will solicit a replacement at April membership meeting. If anyone has any ideas on a replacement, contact K4HF. In the meantime, approved meeting minutes will be sent to RARS members via e-mail (rarslist), and copies made available at general membership meetings.

Net Manager - KF4UQZ reported that we should have some new net controls soon.

Web Master - W4BRB (on behalf of WA2UZO) reported that a new automatic archive feature is being added to the news area of the website.

Membership Services - KG4CXR reports she is gearing up for a new membership year.

Hamfest - K4HM gave a status update and reported smooth sailing. Ticket sales are up 50% over last year at this time. AC4ZO reported 158 flea market tables sold, also a large increase over a year ago. Discussion ensued about how to provide receipts for dona-

tions to the Club. KE4PAX agreed to design an all-purpose receipt. Nothing resolved at this time.

Public Information - KN4AQ had nothing to report at this time.

Field Day - W4BRB reports this chair is still open. Discussion ensued about possible candidates

Education - KN4AQ (on behalf of W4NOT) reported that the Technician Class started with 12 members, and has gained 3 more.

Tune In the World night is scheduled for April 8th. Discussed idea of having volunteer "Elmers" for current class members at the Hamfest.

VE Team - No report.

Public Service - W4BRB (on behalf of W4NOT) reminded that we should support Bill Cole's organization, "Helping Hams." KN4AQ gave an update on the Tour-de-Cure.

ARRL Liaison - K4HF discussed the ARRL dues increase. Also reported that ARRL online training courses are getting very popular W4DW/W4RNC Trustee - AC4ZO reports no violations, and we are in good standing with the commission.

**Unfinished Business:**

KE4PAX gave an update on the IRS notice received last month.

Schedule A was omitted from our return, and the matter has been rectified. No word yet on any penalties.

KE4PAX reported he's still working with Nortel to procure a video projector for the Club

**New Business:**

KN4AQ informed that the church has requested we end our meetings at 9:30 PM and vacate the building at 9:45 PM on our meeting nights. We will comply (this is only 15 minutes earlier than our current deadline of 10 PM).

W4BRB read a letter from Art Stratameyer offering all electronic equipment and antennas at his contesting station for the Club to sell or auction off, with the proceeds split 70/30 between the Club and Art. Discussion ensued, and it was decided that due to the size of the project we would refer this to Bob Lukazyzewski (K4HA) of the Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC). AC4ZO agreed to contact Bob and discuss it.

W4BRB reported that budget preparation will start at the April meeting... 2002-2003 budget must be approved in June.

**Member Comments**:

K4HM - Still looking for Hamfest help.

KG4FIJ asked how to dispose of RARS library materials. It was decided that the materials would be put up for sale at the RARS table at the Hamfest. The cart will be put in the storage building.

KN4AQ reported that CQ VHF magazine is going back into publication as a quarterly, and KN4AQ will be the FM & Repeaters columnist.

AC4ZO moved for adjournment, and KA2FWC seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Walter KG4FIJ, Secretary

*Tune In The*

***RARS NEWS HOUR***

*-Newsline*
*-ARRL Audio News*

*Sunday Nights following the RARS 8:00 Net on 146.64*

***The Central Carolina Skywarn Net meets Tuesday at 9:15 PM on the 146.88 Repeater***

# MINUTES OF THE RARS MEMBERSHIP MEETING

## Tuesday, May 7, 2002

President Bernard Blackmon W4BRB called the meeting to order at 7:32pm. Two visitors were recognized.

**Treasurer's Report:**

(Greg Seamster KE4PAX): incomefrom the hamfest should be approx $7,000. There were three donations made in May: $200.00 to Amateur Radio Newsline, $50.00 to American Cancer Society (in memory of Patricia King KE4ZDT), and $50.00 to American Diabetes Association (in memory of Vince Yakamavich AA4MY). There are currently 317 members.

**Announcements:**

Field Day (Neal Fisher N4HAF) – Field Day will be June 22-23, 2002 at Jim & Beth Carrol's farm. Set up will be Friday at 2 PM. Explained purpose of Field Day, and requested volunteers for various band captain vacancies.

Exciter (Gary Pearce KN4AQ) – Announced that Denyse Walter KG4CXR is the new Exciter Editor. Need folks to submit articles for publication. May also need volunteers to fold & mail the finished newsletters.

Gary KN4AQ announced the completion of a very successful Technician class. Fifteen graduated, and 14 have taken and passed the exam (including one who passed the Extra exam).

Gary KN4AQ announced there will be a Hurricane Preparedness Fair at the Lowe's on Glenwood Ave. on June 29, 2002 from 9 AM to 3 PM. Expect participation from Central Carolina Skywarn and Wake County ARES. Plan is to set up a "mini" field day at the site.

Bernard W4BRB announced that grounding is done at the Bayleaf site and 44 repeater should be installed soon, with 220 repeater planned for the future.

Drawing was conducted for the RARSfest worker prize of $100.00 check. Winner is Mike Mican KE4OQO.

**Program:**

Charles Scharlau NZOI gave a presentation on Transmitter (Fox) Hunting.

Greg KE4PAX announced that 2002-2003 budget is being prepared and asked that anyone with input provide it to him. Also, membership renewal forms will be mailed soon.

Door prizes won by KG4FIJ, KF4UIC, and KG4CXW.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Walter KG4FIJ, Secretary.

New Members: April 2002

| | |
|---|---|
| Maury Cupitt | AG4QZ |
| Dan Hartmann | KG4SWE |
| John Miles | KG4SWI |
| Selene Montgomery | KG4RMT |
| David Pate | KG4RIY |
| Judy Weaver | KA8CNR |
| Glenn Weaver | K8JOI |
| Lou Williams | KE4ARM |
| Jim Wisdon | K4HCG |

# HAM PUBLIC SERVICE

**Habitat Wake Cycling Challenge** This event will happen at the new Thomas Brook Park in Cary, NC. Races will be running all day Saturday.

**Event Coordinator:** David Easter
**Date:** May 18, 2002
**Time:** 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

**www.hampublicservice.org/calendar.html**

Hurricane Awareness Training, Greenville, NC. Open to all persons. The presenter will be Jeff Orrock from the National Weather Service office in Newport, NC. A great overview for those who've never attended it, in addition to being a great refresher if you've seen it before.

## Hurricane Preparedness Fair

**Saturday, June 29, 2002 - 9:00-3:00pm**

**Where: Lowes parking lot on Hwy 70, Glenwood Ave.**

**Wake County ARES and SKYWARN will participate as the Red Cross and Lowes sponsor a Hurricane Preparedness Fair. Hams are needed to help set up the display, operate and explain ham radio to the public.**

**See the Wake ARES and SKYWARN web sites for information:**

**www.wakeares.org**
**www.ccskywarn.net**

**Or contact: Gary Pearce KN4AQ at kn4aq@arrl.net**
**Thomas Babb KF4JKQ at kf4jkq@arrl.net**

***NEXT RARS MEETING: Tuesday, June 4th***

***Tech/Trader Net***
***8:30 Saturday on 64***
***Two Nets In One!***

# PLAN ON FIELD DAY JUNE 22-23, 2002

RARS will again be participating in the ARRL sponsored Field Day 2002 at the Carroll Farm in Apex, N.C. The event begins on Saturday, June 22 , 2PM through Sunday , June 23 , 2PM. Setup of Field Day stations can begin after 2PM, On Friday June 21.

Field day is an annual ARRL sponsored event whose main purpose is to test our ability to setup and operate HF/VHF/UHF stations in the field, using emergency power for an extended period of time. It is also a contest, like no other, with the purpose of contacting as many stations as possible during the 24 hour period. Clubs and individuals from across the U.S and Canada will be participating.

This is an event in which all RARS member can participate , regardless of operator license class. If you are a new ham, and you have never operated an HF station, now is your chance. We expect to have CW, SSB, Digital, and FM stations in operation, so there is plenty of opportunity to learn and also have a great time.

RARS has a history of first place wins in our class, including three in the past six years!

Each station will require a Band Captain , responsible for recruiting and coordinating the event with a team of operators for his/her station. Before the end of May, I will be publishing a list of band captains on the RARS website, as well as a map to the site, and other details about the event. At that time , you will be able to contact the Band Captain to sign up for operation on your favorite band and mode.. If you are interested in being a Band Captain, please contact me at 848-8840 (Raleigh) or via E-Mail N4HAF@NC.RR.COM.

Please join us for the biggest and most exciting National Amateur Radio event in the hobby.

Neal Fisher N4HAF
2002 Field Day Chairman


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the RARS Exciter
May, 2002

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## Snapshots

## Hamfest Calendar

| | |
|---|---|
| **May 18:** | Williamston |
| **May 25:** | **Durham** |
| **June 2:** | Manassas, VA |
| **June 8:** | Winston-Salem |
| **July 6:** | Salisbury |
| **July 20:** | **Cary** |

**Courtesy of the SERA *Repeater Journal***

### *May Meeting Program*

Charles Scharlau NZ0I demonstrated equipment and techniques for ARDF (that's Amateur Radio Direction Finding - we used to call it Fox Hunting). Charles participated in the US ARDF Championships in Atlanta a few weeks ago, and has been invited to be on the US team for the international championship.

Pictured with Charles is the horizontally polarized, omnidirectional antenna for two meters, with the orange and white "control flag" hanging below. The green box on the floor is the transmitter and control circuitry.

Charles sponsors local hunts, and usually has equipment available to borrow. If you'd like to try a hunt, and don't have your own equipment, just show up and he'll show you what to do. To see the schedule, stop by the Piedmont Trackers web site: **www.qsl.net/nz0i**